

## Purpose

The Lees-McRae College Pet Policy allows resident students the privilege of bringing their pets to live on campus while the student is enrolled in classes. The college is committed to providing a safe and well-maintained environment for pet owners. It is the responsibility of the pet owner to protect the rights of all students, uphold a safe and healthy living and learning environment, and practice behaviors that support the upkeep of college facilities and physical beauty of the campus. Students who bring pets to campus are responsible for understanding and abiding by the regulations of the pet policy. Every pet owner is encouraged to carefully consider the advantages and disadvantages of the campus environment for their individual pet.

Pet owners assume all responsibility for pet actions regardless of circumstances. Pet owners are liable for any harm or damage their pet causes to another person, animal, or property. The college is not responsible for injury or damage to pets resulting from any cause including, but not limited to, wildlife encounters, vehicles, fire or burns, inclement weather, and evacuation plans. Members of the campus community are advised to behave respectfully and responsibly toward pets they encounter on campus. Likewise, pet owners must respect requests by any member of the campus community who do not wish to interact directly with their pet by appropriately restraining their pet and keeping their pet at a safe distance.

The Vice President for Student Affairs or their designee is responsible for overseeing successful pet registration processes and pet program budgets. Pet registration fees support the materials, educational workshops, and needs to uphold and improve procedures for pet owners and animals at Lees-McRae College.

## Permitted Pets

Cats, dogs, and fish are the only pets allowed in *approved* campus housing.

Pets (cats and dogs) are permitted only in the following designated residence halls:

Baldwin Hall, Bentley Hall, McMillan Hall, Elk River Apartments, Bobcat Way Houses (with approval of other housemates), and other student housing as approved by the Director of Housing and Residence Life. Pets are not allowed in non-designated pet residence halls.

## Dogs

- Dog pets must be properly registered online through the Office of Student Affairs before residing in campus housing.
- Dogs must be at least one year old and have lived with the student for at least ten months prior to living on-campus.
- Dogs may not exceed forty (40) pounds when fully grown. Dogs may not exhibit any aggressive behavior or have any history of an attack causing injury against any person or other pet.
- Due to insurance policy regulations, the following breeds or mix of breeds are not allowed on campus: Akita, American Pit Bull/Staffordshire Terrier, Alaskan Husky/Alaskan Malamute, Bullmastiff, Chow, Doberman Pinscher, German Shepherd, Great Dane, Huskies (all breeds), Presa Canario (Canary Dog), Rottweiler, St. Bernard, or Wolf or Coyote Hybrid.
- Dogs are only permitted in designated residential communities as announced by the Office of Residence Life.
- Dogs that are purchased, fostered, adopted, or otherwise owned after the pet registration deadline has passed will not be approved as a registered pet for that academic year.
- Students caring for stray dogs is prohibited.
- The Vice President for Student Affairs or their designee has the final authority to decide which dogs are permitted to reside in campus housing.

## Cats

- Cats must be at least six months old and have lived with the student for at least three months prior to living on-campus.
- Cats may not exhibit any aggressive behavior or have any history of an attack causing injury against any person or other pet.
- Cats are only permitted in designated residential communities as announced by the Office of Residence Life.
- “Outdoor cats” are not permitted to live on campus.
- A cat that is purchased, fostered, adopted or otherwise owned after the pet registration has passed will not be approved as a registered pet for that academic year.
- Students caring for cats as strays is prohibited.
- The Vice President for Student Affairs or their designee has the final authority to decide which cats are permitted to reside in campus housing.

## Fish

- A fish aquarium must not exceed twenty gallons.
- A student can have no more than two aquariums.
- Students are not required to register or pay the pet fee for fish.

Owners are not permitted to breed any pet or domestic animals on campus for food or other purposes.

Only one pet is permitted per student—unless prior approval is given by the Director of Housing and Residence Life.

First-year and transfer students are eligible to apply for a pet-approved housing assignment pending the availability of a pet-approved space.

Students approved to live off campus and wishing to bring their pet to approved classes must also register their pet with the Office of Student Affairs. Off-campus students do not have to pay the \$500 pet registration fee but must provide all appropriate documentation prior to them bringing their pet.

If a pet owner has been given permission by Residence Life staff to remain on campus during a vacation (Fall, Thanksgiving, or Spring Break) all rules of the Pet Policy still apply. If owners are leaving campus during a break, they must take their pet home or make arrangements for the pet to stay off campus. Pets are not allowed to be left in a residence hall room/suite unattended during any break (excluding fish).

Wildlife Rehabilitation animals are not covered under this policy and are not allowed in the residence halls, apartments, or houses.

## Registration and Inoculation

All animals that reside on campus must be registered with the Office of Student Affairs. The registration fee (does not apply to ESA or Service Animals) will be \$250 per semester (\$500 per year) for all animals, except for fish. The registration fee will be charged to the student’s account by the Office of Residence Life. This fee is charged for each pet.

All pets must be registered prior to residing on campus. All pet registrations are valid for one academic year.

Certification of all appropriate vaccinations, proof of liability insurance, and a photograph of the pet must be presented when registering. Dogs and cats are required to be treated for fleas and must be spayed or neutered. Certification that this procedure has been performed must be provided when registering. Owners must also present certification from their veterinarian that the dog has been in the family for at least 10 months, and cats for three months.

All pets must be registered during the registration period determined by the Office of Student Affairs; failure to register the pet will result in the pet owner being placed on pet ownership probation and may result in a \$500 fine. Once on probation, the pet owner runs the risk of losing their privilege of owning a pet on campus. All pets must be in good health while residing on campus.

## How to Register

All animals that reside on campus must be registered with the Office of Student Affairs. Pet registration for the upcoming fall semester takes place in the spring semester of each academic year, during the housing selection process. If a student wants to register a pet for the upcoming spring semester, those will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis within the first four weeks of the semester.

Students wishing to bring a pet must submit the following:

- Pet/Domestic Animal Application
- Veterinary records
  - *Veterinary records must include the date of spay or neuter, updated shot records, and proof that the dog or cat has been owned for the appropriate amount of time as defined by the pet policy.*
- Proof of Liability Insurance
- Three (3) written references that speak to their responsibility as a pet owner.
- Photo of Pet

## Deadlines

Deadlines for Pet Registration will vary by academic year. These dates will be communicated to the campus community via Lees-McRae campuswide email.

## Pet Waiver

Residents must accept full liability for their pet, should their pet cause harm or damage to another person or their property. The college will not accept any liability to property or persons due to a pet that is not being properly watched or cared for. Residents who are approved to bring their pets on campus will need to sign the pet policy waiver at move-in.

## Campus Breaks

Pet owners must remove their pet from campus during any campus break in which the pet owner will be away from campus for an extended period of time. This includes dogs, cats, and small pets. Breaks include: Fall Break, Thanksgiving Break, Winter Break, Spring Break, Summer Break, etc.

All pet owners and pets who remain on-campus during breaks must register and receive approval from the Director of Housing and Residence Life by the communicated registration deadline.

If a pet owner is not approved to remain in campus housing for campus breaks, under no circumstances will the pet be approved to remain in campus housing.

Pet owners found to be in non-compliance will be subject to fines, disciplinary action, and/or additional action deemed necessary by the college up to and including the removal of the pet from campus.

## Inclement Weather and Evacuation

During the evacuation of campus, all pets are to be removed from campus for their safety.

Upon evacuation, registration records will be provided to the Office of Residence Life for community health and safety checks. Staff are to confirm that pets have been removed during the evacuation.

Students responsible for abandoning a pet will be fined, referred to the Office of Student Conduct, and referred to North Carolina animal abandonment laws.

## Pet Removal from Campus Housing

Owner abandonment, negligence, or mistreatment of a pet will not be tolerated. No warnings will be issued. In the case of abuse, the pet will be removed from the situation in order to prevent contact with the person(s) responsible for the abuse. Person(s) responsible for the abuse will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and may be reported to other authorities as appropriate.

The Vice President for Student Affairs or their designee oversees any pet removal from campus housing. Pets may be removed from campus housing when there is reasonable cause to believe, based on available facts, that the pet is a threat to the safety, health, or welfare of any member of the residence hall community or residence hall property.

Pets are included in the Quiet Hours and College Noise Code as published in the Campus Housing Policies and Regulations—Activities in Halls policy. Pets that continue to detract from a residential environment conducive for studying and sleep may be removed from campus housing.

Any member of the Lees-McRae College community may file a complaint with the Office of Student Affairs for any form of misconduct from a campus pet owner or pet. Complaints are to be sent to [studentaffairs@lmc.edu](mailto:studentaffairs@lmc.edu). Pet owners may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Actions may include, but are not limited to, warnings, fines, and removal of the pet from campus.

Wildlife is not allowed in campus housing and is not covered by the pet policy. Any rescued wildlife is to be brought to the May Wildlife Rehabilitation Center or other appropriate animal care facility as designated by local and state officials.

## Pet Owner Responsibilities

If Lees-McRae College approves a pet/domestic animal application, the pet owner is solely responsible for the custody and care of the approved pet and must meet the following requirements:

1. Regardless of the circumstances, the pet owner is ultimately responsible for the actions of the pet. Approved Pet owners may not transfer daily care responsibilities for their animal to others.
2. All pets must reside with their owners at all times when on campus.
3. All dogs and cats must be housebroken before arriving on campus.
4. Pets are not allowed inside academic and administration buildings unless approved by faculty and staff for their classroom or office. No pets are allowed in the following buildings or areas: unapproved residence halls, Williams Physical Education Center, Student Recreation Complex, Cannon Student Center, science laboratories, dining facilities, Hayes Auditorium, dance studio, The Exchange Bookstore, Einstein Bros. Bagels, and the May School of Nursing and Health Sciences.
5. All pets must be on a leash at all times and must be under vocal command. Under no circumstances are pets allowed to run around outside unsupervised and/or off leash. Pets are not permitted in residence hall bathrooms.
6. Pets cannot be tied up, leashed to an object or building when outside or in a hallway/area while owner is not present.
7. Pet owners are required to attend promptly to the pet's toileting needs and clean up after and properly dispose of the animal's waste in a safe and sanitary manner. Animal feces must not be disposed of in any trash receptacle or through the sewer system inside any building. Feces must be removed from college grounds by securing in a plastic bag and placed in an outside garbage dumpster or trash can.
8. Pet owners are required to ensure that animals are well cared for. Any evidence of mistreatment or abuse may result in immediate removal of the pet and/or disciplinary action for the individual.
9. Approved pets may not be left overnight in college housing to be cared for by any individual other than the pet owner. If pet owners are to be absent from their residence halls overnight or longer, the animal

- must accompany the pet owner or the pet owner must make accommodations to board the pet off campus. The pet owner is responsible for ensuring that the pet is contained, as appropriate, when the pet owner is not present.
10. Pet owners must fully cooperate with Lees-McRae College personnel regarding this policy and developing procedures for care of the animals (e.g., cleaning the animal, feeding/watering the animal, designating an outdoor relief area, disposing of feces, etc.).
  11. Pet owner is solely responsible for regular and routine cleaning of floors, kennels, crates, and cages.
  12. Pets must be caged or crated when the pet owner is not in the assigned living area.
  13. All college housing is subject to scheduled health, safety, service, maintenance checks, and filter changes. An authorized staff member will conduct periodic inspections, which may be without prior notice and without the resident present. Premises may be entered as set forth in the Student Code of Conduct and Housing Agreement. Crating, caging, and stationing pets when unattended is vital to protecting the safety of the pet and college staff when this procedure is carried out. For the safety of staff and animals, facilities staff may reschedule work orders if pets are not crated, caged, or stationed while unattended. If work orders cannot be repaired in a timely manner due to an uncrated animal, pet owners may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and subject to fines.
  14. Facilities staff may not enter a room to make repairs or spray for bugs if a pet is inside. Pet owners will need to remove their animals or kennel them during that time.
  15. Pet gates across bedroom doors, front doors, hallways, and stairwells, or that could impede fire egress are prohibited. This is to maintain a clear path for fire egress and safety as required by state and local fire codes.
  16. An odor of an animal emanating from the residence is not acceptable.
  17. Bathing of the animals must occur off campus.
  18. Pet owners may be charged for any damage caused by their pet to the same extent other individuals are charged for damages. The pet owner's living accommodations may also be inspected for fleas, ticks, or other pests, if necessary, as part of Lees-McRae's standard or routine inspections. If pests are detected through inspection, the residence will be treated using approved fumigation methods by a Lees-McRae College-approved pest control service. The pet owner's student accounts will be billed for the expense of any pest treatment above and beyond standard pest management in the residence halls.
  19. Pet owners are responsible for all actions of their approved pet. This includes:
    - a. Damage beyond normal wear and tear expected for spaces without the presence of animals
    - b. Aggression toward humans or other animals
    - c. Injury of humans or other animals
    - d. Disruption during class meetings
    - e. Disruption during other meetings or gatherings, indoors or outside
  20. Only registered pet owners may bring their pet to an approved class. Off-campus students must also register their pets in order to bring their pet to campus. Off-campus students do not have to pay the \$500 pet registration fee, but must provide all appropriate documentation prior to them bringing their pet.
  21. Pet owners are required to have a Lees-McRae College issued decal on their front doors and bedroom doors at all times indicating a pet is inside.
  22. Failure to remove a pet from campus will result in conduct action.